

Harwich Water Department
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
Meeting on Tuesday, April 28th, 2015

Present: Chairman Allin Thompson, Vice Chair Danette Gonsalves, Clerk Donald Bates, Town Administrator Chris Clark, Comptroller Sandra Cummings, Sr. Billing Administrator Wellesley Marsh, Secretary Tracey Alves, Selectman Larry Ballantine, Resident Jack Swineford

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

The Board suggested a few changes to be made to the Minutes of April 14th, 2015 prior to approval.

Resident Jack Swineford of 105 Azalea Drive attended the meeting to relay the details of a leak that occurred at his property. The Board reviewed his abatement request and will take it under advisement.

The Board reviewed an abatement request submitted by 7 Meetinghouse Lane. Vice Chair Gonsalves moved to deny the abatement with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

The Board reviewed an abatement request submitted by 18 Paddocks Pond Road. Vice Chair Gonsalves moved to deny the abatement with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

The Board spoke about how water is a precious commodity and that the Water Department should think about advertising to educate the Town on how to protect their homes in the winter, for example seasonal service. Water is too expensive for the Department to just write off.

The Board reviewed an abatement request submitted by 363 Route 28, Unit 4. Vice Chair Gonsalves moved to deny the abatement with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

The Board reviewed the 3rd Quarter Internal Adjustments in the amount of \$4,665.16. The Board approved the 3rd Quarter Adjustments with a move by Vice Chair Gonsalves and a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0

Chair Thompson motioned to adjourn the current meeting at 8:31 am and open the proposed rate increase Rate Hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to receive input from the public regarding the new rates that have gone up by 6%. The new rates will be in effect as of March 17th, 2015. Chair Thompson entertained a motion to adopt the rate structure. Vice Chair Gonsalves moved to approve the new rate structure with a second by Clerk Bates; 3-0-0. Chair Thompson adjourned the Rate Hearing at 8:39 a.m. and reopened the regular session meeting.

The final touches are being put on Well 10. Jason Federico of Polaris Consultants is collaborating with Treatment Specialist Bernie Newhard to adjust the Ph and chlorine levels at Well 10. A final punch list will soon be created and a final inspection scheduled shortly thereafter. The project is close to completion. The Board requested that Polaris Consultants attend the next meeting to give a final overview of the project.

Comptroller Cummings provided the Board with an update regarding NSTAR negotiations related to the \$28,000 bill that was sent to the Water Department for an "unmetered

condition." The request is in for the Water Department to pay half of the requested amount. Negotiations will continue until an agreement is reached.

WMA permit renewal was discussed. Recently, there has been a push for Harwich to comply with limited water withdrawal. Many Water Superintendents on Cape Cod are not in agreement with limited water withdrawal because the Cape has a major influx of people that visit seasonally in the summer. Harwich's population is 14,000 in the winter and rises to 36,000 in the summer. The Water Department is planning on filing for an extension on renewing its water withdrawal permit. A meeting will be held on April 30th, 2015 with DEP at 2pm regarding this topic at Brewster Water.

The Town's new website www.harwichma.vt-s.net was discussed. The Water Department will provide the essential information on the Town's new website. This information will include a link to its website www.harwichwater.com as well as contact names, telephone numbers, Board of Water Commissioners, rules and regulations, bill pay option, etc. The Water Department will also continue to operate under www.harwichwater.com where further details pertaining to Harwich Water can be found.

Six (6) applicants applied for the Distribution laborer position. Interviews for this position will be scheduled in the near future.

Comptroller Cummings presented the Board with a 3rd Quarter Budget Report.

A thank you letter was received from a resident who had needed emergency response over the weekend due to a failed backflow device. Distribution Foreman Steve Hicks as well as the Fire Department had responded to the call. The resident was thankful for such great service. Foreman Hicks did comment that Water Safety Services, the company that the water department contracts to do its backflow inspections, should have their technicians carry some form of identification which can be presented at the time of service.

The Federal government has approved the emergency declaration. Forms still need to be filled out for FEMA.

Haley & Ward contacted the water department regarding Amstar of New York, the vendor who rehabbed the Route 39 tank and how they are currently doing work in the nearby town of Yarmouth. Haley & Ward is coordinating with Amstar to see if they can touch up the coating on the Route 39 tank while on Cape Cod. Also, an offer of \$600 has been quoted by Haley & Ward to have Leo Yuskus perform water tank inspections. At this time the Route 39 tank is not in need of inspection however an inspection will be scheduled for the Lothrop tank.

Vice Chair Gonsalves announced under the Commissioners Report that it is Clerk Donald Bates' last meeting. After 18 years of service a lot has been accomplished during his tenure. Bates' keen insight, concern for rate payers and sense of humor will be missed. Thank you Donald Bates!

An update on the Superintendent of Water & Wastewater interview schedule was presented to the Board. The preliminary interviews will be held in Executive Session on Thursday, May 7, 2015 and Friday, May 8, 2015 at the Town Hall Library. The Town Administrator and the Board of Water Commissioners will be performing the interviews.

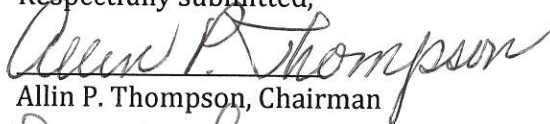
One of the new Selectmen Mike MacAskill has requested a tour of the water department. Vice Chair Gonsalves will help coordinate the tour.

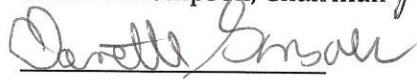
The Harwich Water Department has won another award for its high quality water and there is an Award Ceremony being held in Gloucester on May 5, 2015. Chair Thompson would like to attend along with the Town Administrator.

The Board will meet again on Tuesday, May 12th, 2015.

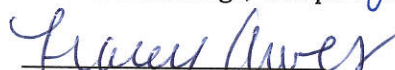
Chairman Thompson motioned to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. with a second from Vice Chair Gonsalves; 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted,


Allin P. Thompson, Chairman


Danette Gonsalves, Vice Chair


Sandra Cummings, Comptroller


Tracey Alves, Board Secretary

Donald T. Bates, Clerk